



SCOTT WALKER
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STATE OF WISCONSIN

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July 11, 2011

Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

I am concerned that proposed revisions to ozone standards will have an adverse impact on Wisconsin's economy. The state is currently on the path to economic recovery. The unemployment rate has been steadily declining and we have enacted a number of measures that will help businesses grow and create jobs. New EPA regulations threaten the progress we have made, and I hope that you will reconsider them.

The regulations I am concerned with would reduce ozone limits from the current 75 parts per billion (ppb) to a level between 60 and 70 ppb. Tightening the standard for ozone compliance is a de facto tax increase on both businesses and residents. Companies would be forced to install new emission controls, electricity costs will increase as our power plants are forced to change to more expensive energy sources, and residents' personal vehicles will come under increased scrutiny. When companies are faced with higher overhead costs without a related increase in revenue intake, they are forced to cut jobs.

A recent study predicts that Wisconsin will lose 80,000 jobs and total attainment costs and reduction in state GDP would total \$12.6 billion if the ozone standards are tightened. This is an unacceptable burden to add to our recovering economy. Additional red tape for businesses to navigate will reduce Wisconsin's competitiveness for new business, add costs to existing businesses, and lead to weakened job creation and recovery disruptions.

Wisconsin has made significant improvements in air quality over the last decade. Our two current nonattainment areas – Milwaukee-Racine and Sheboygan County – have both attained the 1997 ozone standard and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has submitted a redesignation request to the EPA. We expect emission reductions to continue as mandatory Clean Air Act programs are implemented.

I would ask that you take the time to reflect on the economic implications of the new proposed ozone standards and reconsider whether now is the appropriate time to be implementing these changes.

Sincerely,

Scott Walker
Governor

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